June 24, 2020

Scripture and Reflection Questions

**The Beatitudes – Matthew 5:3-11**

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

1. Why do you think the beatitudes would have been so shocking for Jesus’ audience to hear? What is surprising or unexpected to you?
2. Who in your life do you know that reflects these traits in the way they live? Which beatitude specifically? How would you describe their relationship with God?
3. How do the beatitudes relate to the fruits of the spirit (Found in Galatians 5:22-23)? Or, how do they relate to what Jesus says about fruits later in the sermon on the mount (Matthew 7:15-20)?
4. Why do you think the importance of action is emphasized more than words or mindsets?